



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

member of the family. The copies of these letters however appear at present to be missing.

Of this material, the notes of Lemen are sufficient to establish the fact of the compact and of his coöperation with Jefferson. Peck's memoir of 1851 is based mainly on the notes, but also perhaps on Jefferson's letters to Lemen and possibly on the statements of pioneers. The set of letters of 1857, — none of them accessible except in print, we may remember, — presents certain difficulties. On the basis of the Jefferson letters, only an extract from which survives, Peck and Douglas represent Lemen not as inspired by Jefferson to the Illinois mission, but rather as the inspirer of Jefferson to the Virginia cession and the ordinance of 1787. The reviewer has had the opportunity to check only one date among the 1857 letters, and that one is impossible. The letter from Douglas is dated at Springfield March 10, 1856, but the *Globe* shows his name in senate roll calls on the 3d, 5th, 9th, 10th, and 11th of March. No other distinctly suspicious circumstance has been noted. The whole mass of material, however, is disappointing in its quality. As one reads the James Lemen notes and the letters of Peck, Snyder, and Lincoln, one wonders that anyone should ever make notes or write in such a manner; Peck's narration rambles along in most uncharacteristic fashion, Snyder writes of slavery aggression and of the need to chastise Mexico without seeming to connect the two, and Lincoln refers to Elijah Lovejoy's end as a felon's death. The reviewer sees no reason for rejecting the material but it must be carefully checked and sifted before it can be used with confidence. Historical students have to thank Mr. MacNaul for setting them an interesting problem; they need only regret that he has modestly refrained from any essay at its solution.

THEODORE C. PEASE

Starved Rock. A chapter of colonial history. By Eaton G. Osman, member Illinois state historical society. Second edition, revised and enlarged. (Chicago: A. Flanagan company, 1914. 210 p. \$.50)

The story of *Starved Rock* can scarcely be termed a "Chapter of colonial history" — the subtitle of the book; it is, however, an attempt, as stated in the preface, to narrate the part played by this landmark of the state of Illinois in the great struggle between France and Great Britain for supremacy in the west. The history, nevertheless, is one of dramatic interest. The rock in question is a steep bluff upon the south side of the Illinois river not far from La Salle and across from the town of Utica.

Two centuries ago, a mile to the west of this fortress lay the Indian village of Kaskaskia, where Marquette and Joliet were kindly received by the natives. In the wake of these two pioneers, came the explorer

La Salle and his henchman, Tonty. La Salle, ascending the Illinois river when returning to Canada in 1680, recognized the strategic value of the impregnable bluff and charged Tonty to make the rock the base of supplies in time of necessity. Approximately one-half of the volume deals with the dreams and efforts of the dauntless La Salle to found a western colony in the vicinity of the rock, then called Fort St. Louis, and the attempts of Tonty to fulfill them. In an endeavor to bring settlers from France, La Salle perished. Tonty, nevertheless, through many vicissitudes, remained faithful to his chief's ideals and Fort St. Louis "continued to be the center of French power and influence in the Mississippi Valley for at least a decade."

With a change of policy toward the west on the part of a Canadian governor, the fort was abandoned about 1700 and remained merely the rendezvous for unlicensed traders. With the entrance of more decided British interests in the west during the eighteenth century, the historic rock played many parts in the struggles between French, British, and Indians. But the end of the drama which gave to the rock its suggestive name grew out of the desire for revenge of the murder of Pontiac. In no place is it chronicled in history, but tradition tells the tale that the remnants of the tribe of the brave Illinois pursued to this last stronghold by their enemies, the Pottawatomies, died of starvation.

In this little book, the author has woven into an interesting tale much scattered material with which the casual reader seldom comes in contact. These sources with a few comments are printed in the footnotes. Of no little interest are the illustrations of the rock and vicinity, reproductions of rare maps and engravings and a glossary.

The book first appeared in 1895, with revised and enlarged editions appearing in 1911 and 1914.

L. M. A.

Life story of Rasmus B. Anderson. Written by himself with the assistance of Albert O. Barton. (Madison, Wisconsin: Privately printed, 1915. 678 p.)

An active, voluble, egotistical, uncritical pioneer, an unskilful reporter, a soft lead pencil, two easy chairs and plenty of paper and printer's ink, have produced this corpulent volume of gossip, which is fortunately redeemed here and there by first-hand contributions to the history of the last fifty years. It is not a history, even of its author; out of this mass of variegated rock specimens gathered from many fields may be smelted some pure metal for the historian who has both the time and patience for the process, but the reader will steadily regret that Mr. Anderson's vigor, versatility, and unusual experiences have not found worthier and less newspaperish expression. A volume of 671 pages without an index